

Opening Statement of Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA)
Energy and Commerce Full Committee Mark Up
Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. Chairman, I really appreciate the opportunity to give an opening statement today. Since we are marking up 9 bills today and only giving one opening statement on all of them I would like to comment briefly on all of them and then dedicate the bulk of my statement to the last resolution.

S. 551: Good Bill

HR 4667: Good Bill

HR 918: Good Bill

HR 3015: Needs stronger privacy protections

HR 3858: Good Bill

H Res. 567: Good Resolution

H. Con. Res. 250: Good Resolution

HR 2699: Bad Bill: It preempts the states and will make it more difficult for states to warn the public about local health concerns

H. Res. 776: an Excellent Resolution

Now, let me turn to H. Res. 776. This is the resolution of inquiry before. It seeks access to all of the estimates of the Medicare bill and any communications about those estimates. From what I understand, someone named Scully was intimately involved with the suppression of those estimates.

There is already a TV show about this. In the TV show "The X Files," an Agent Scully who would go around the country each week seeking to find a logical explanation for bizarre occurrences. Now if you have ever watched the X-Files you would know that there are a couple different types of shows. There are the spooky alien shows where strange things happen that can't be explained in the context of our reality... And then there are the conspiracy theory shows, where the smoking man appears to give a little clue about what is really going on in the big scary Government.

Today's resolution is going to help us figure out which show we are in. Are we in a Spooky Supernatural episode, where \$134 billion dollars of additional costs appear mysteriously out of nowhere almost immediately after the bill was passed? Or are we in a Big Scary Government episode, where someone in Government really knows what happened, but simply refuses to tell anyone?

We need to know. So let us conduct this inquiry into the actions of Director Scully in the spirit of Agent Scully by exercising our oversight responsibilities and asking some tough questions of the Administration. If there hasn't been a cover up, then it shouldn't be a problem for the Administration to provide Director Scully's X-Files. We are certain that the Truth Is Out There, and I am confident that space aliens had nothing to do with this.